

REMARKS

I. Introduction

Claim 12 has been canceled. New claim 13 is currently pending in the present application. In view of the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that presently pending claim 13 is allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants note with appreciation the acknowledgement of the claim for foreign priority and the indication that all copies of the certified copies of priority documents have been received.

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the previously filed Information Disclosure Statement, 1449 paper, and cited references. Applicants submit herewith a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, and Applicants request that the Examiner return an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 paper accompanying the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement with the next Office communication.

II. Specification

The Specification has been amended herein to reflect the current status of the prior patent applications.

III. Rejection of Claim 12 Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claim 12 was rejected based on double patenting under 35 U.S.C. § 101 over U.S. Patent No. 6,687,788.

Claim 12 has been canceled, rendering moot the present rejection.

IV. New Claim 13

New claim 13 has been added herein. It is respectfully submitted that new claim 13 does not add any new matter and is fully supported by the present application, including the Specification, e.g., at page 7, line 4 to page 9, line 36.

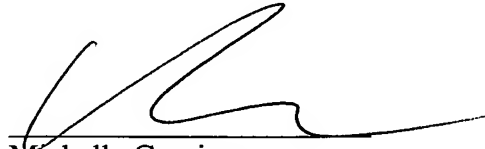
V. Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of the present application are therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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